

We claim:-

1. The use of graft copolymers which contain at least one monoethylenically unsaturated monomer which is incorporated in the form of polymerized units and contains at least one nitrogen-containing heterocycle, as an assistant for leather production.
2. The use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the graft copolymers contain at least two different monomers which are incorporated in the form of polymerized units and in each case contain at least one nitrogen-containing heterocycle.
3. The use as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the graft copolymers contain at least one monomer B1 and one monomer B2 incorporated in the form of polymerized units.
4. The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein at least one graft copolymer is composed of
a polymeric grafting base A which has no monoethylenically unsaturated units, and
polymeric side chains B formed from copolymers of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated monomer selected from B1 and B2 or monomers B1 and B2 and, if required, B3, which in each case contain at least one nitrogen-containing heterocycle, and optionally further comonomers B3.
5. The use as claimed in claim 3 or 4, wherein the amount of the side chains B on the graft copolymer is greater than 35% by weight.
- 30 6. The use as claimed in any of claims 3 to 5, wherein the polymeric grafting base A is a polyether.
- 35 7. An assistant for leather production, comprising at least one graft copolymer which contains at least one monoethylenically unsaturated monomer incorporated in the form of polymerized units, the monoethylenically unsaturated monomer containing at least one nitrogen-containing heterocycle.
- 40 8. An assistant for leather production as claimed in claim 7, wherein at least one graft copolymer contains at least two different monomers, containing at least one nitrogen-containing heterocycle, incorporated in the form of polymerized units.

9. An assistant for leather production as claimed in claim 7 or 8, wherein the graft copolymer contains at least one monomer B1 and at least one monomer B2 incorporated in the form of polymerized units.
- 5 10. A process for the production of leather using at least one assistant for leather production as claimed in any of claims 7 to 9.
11. A leather produced as claimed in claim 10.